

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

On seeing a little fish with feet on a car and, giving the driver an “Impossible for Evolution” card, I reported the resultant e-mail conversation in a recent issue. A member “George” took me to task over my comment “I am not talking about scriptural matters like bringing instruments of music into the worship or having women take leadership roles”.

As I was growing up, I heard numerous sermons on the evil of instrumental music which were documented by numerous verses in the Bible. The tract rack in our lobbies have many verses quoted.



It is interesting to me that in looking at it, I can only find one verse on the subject—Ephesians 5:19— “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing and make melody with your heart to the Lord”. It doesn’t say what not to do, but it specifically says what to do.

The basis of the Church of Christ is to “speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent” so that says pretty well that we would not have instrumental music. It might also say you don’t have light bulbs either, but how do you distinguish.

I have tried to write down some ways in which to implement the philosophy, and parts of that which seem to apply in this circumstance. What applies to this is if something existed when the church was established and it was not used by the first century church, then we should not use it either.

In this case there is no mention of instrumental music in the first century church even though it existed, but that does not mean that it wasn’t used. It is an indication, but not a conclusive proof.

What we do know from history is that instrumental music was introduced into the church by Pope Vitalian in AD 667 after much debate and disagreement.

That means that for the first 667 years instrumental music was generally not used in the church, so was not likely used in the first century. I am sure that it was actually used to a progressive extent up to that time and was not suddenly done as a surprise in AD 667, but I am equally sure this would mean it was not done in the first century.

A second reason I would never attend a congregation with instrumental music is that it appears to be the first step for a congregation to take down the slippery slope to liberalism. It has been my observation that not long after a congregation introduces instrumental music, it will soon be the ‘Community Church’ or whatever they might choose rather than being a Church of Christ.

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A third reason which has nothing to do with scriptures is that the singing in acappella congregations is far better than the singing which is drowned out by an organ. I have been in a number of churches with instrumental music and have never seen anything which would make me want to follow suit.

To a large extent the desire for instrumental music seems to be a desire to just do something different because what is presently happening is not fulfilling. Another way to see this is to look at the opposite side.

Some things I have seen:

1. Leading songs on Sunday morning which are not familiar to most of the members. This makes the service a sight reading class rather than a worship service. This is typically fulfilling to the song leader only.
2. Leading "technical" songs. Songs which are complex and difficult to sing for all but the most accomplished.
3. Allowing new song leaders to come into a congregation and immediately begin leading songs on Sunday morning which were used in his last congregation, without determining if they were familiar with the present congregation.
4. The primary song leader for a congregation who used a computer program to record the songs he led so that he would never lead the same songs twice. This guaranteed that after a while most songs would not be familiar to most members.

This means that in some cases instead a joyful worship to the Lord, some of our services have been boring. Our objective is to worship God, but it does not mean that it has to be boring to us.

It would seem to me that whereas we may be critical of those who pursue instrumental music, to an extent we have driven them to instrumental music. We have:

1. Abandoned serious teaching about instrumental music and just presumed everyone knew the scriptural basis.
2. Abandoned serious teaching about 4 part harmony and simply presumed everyone simply knew how to sing.
3. Characteristically failed to insure that uplifting songs were led on Sunday morning and learning sessions were at other services.
4. Started using PowerPoint presentations with words only, and not showing the four part musical notes to learn it.

Consider for yourself that if we raise up a generation with minimal teaching on music or scriptures and subject them to boring singing—what would you expect them to do? At least to some extent we need to stop criticizing those wandering off into instrumental music and take a hard look at ourselves.

Imagine what you would do if you wanted to sabotage acapella singing. What you probably would do is abandon teaching, lead boring songs, and stop showing the notes. That is exactly what some of us are doing, and we wonder why it is happening.

Is it asking too much to make sure that our services are not only a worship to God, but also uplifting to our members? It can be done, it should be done. If you have attended church for any period of time you have personally participated in inspirational song services and boring ones.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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A frequent comment is that you are not here to be entertained, worship is for God. It is said like God will be grateful to get songs sung to Him no matter how bad they are. Throughout history God has expected our best. Second class effort didn't even get past Cain. How can we possibly think that if our singing is boring even to us that God has to be happy with it?

Now, back to the graphic on page 1. It looks pretty much like a organ keyboard, but it is not. It means that some instrumental music fans are now bored even with instrumental music. The man is playing an iPad at a North Point Community Church worship service.

The following is a picture of North Point's iPad band, as shown on an iPad.



This graphic is an iPad view of a man playing bells on an iPad.

If you paste the following link onto your web page, you will hear a song played by the iPad band of several musicians. They are not complimenting the singing, they have completely replaced it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9XNfWNooz4&feature=email>

So basically, if you want to abandon what was done in the first century in favor of something more trendy, you can skip the old fashioned instrumental music and go straight to iPads. However, if you want to do either, instead of dragging the Church of Christ down and then changing your name to the Community Church, consider changing your name to the Community Church first.



1 Peter 4:18—If you are not suffering much as a Christian, you may not be much of a Christian.

FAMILY CIRCUS

By BIL KEANE



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - DNA EVOLUTION?

A brother recently asked me that if DNA was constantly evolving, doesn't that demonstrate evolution. When two parent have a child, the DNA of the child is like the DNA of neither of the parents, but rather evolves into a new DNA.

It certainly demonstrates evolution, but that is a difficulty with the word. "Evolution" is an ambiguous term. Scientist do a very unscientific thing in using one kind of evolution as proof of another kind of evolution.

In order to clarify the subject, you need to look at the definition of different types of evolution:

MACRO EVOLUTION:

Macro Evolution is the development of new species or characteristics. I.e. if a dog becomes a cat, that would be macro evolution. If a species without sight were to develop sight, that would be macro evolution.

MICRO EVOLUTION:

Micro evolution is minor changes within a species. Darwin's birds on the Galapagos Islands were an example of micro evolution. As their food supply varied from island to island, the beak of the birds varied to match the food. If they had no beaks and developed beaks, that would have been macro evolution. The only change was in the size of the beaks—they already had beaks.

Do not look in your text books for these terms. They point out the fallacy in evolutionary teachings so you will find them in creationist teaching, not evolutionist.

It is true that DNA evolves (micro evolution) when parents mate and create offspring. This is not a proof against God. This is one of the many wonders of God.

Imagine if God had not included the very complex DNA programming to make offspring different than parents. Your face "evolves". If it did not, everyone would look the same.

Before people existed, God designed complexity into DNA so that people would look different. Every cell in your body has the programming to determine the shape of your nose.

There is no survival of the fittest reason for you to have a unique nose, unique ear shape, or unique fingerprints. It is simply because God had the foresight to know it would be good, and preprogrammed it to happen.

It is simply impossible for unguided evolution to recognize the benefit of this unique characteristic and make it happen.

"EVOLUTION" OF THE SUPER-VIRUS

The hospital developed "super virus" is such an example of mis-interpretation of data. In this case imagine that there is a population of one million virus germs in your area, with 1/10 of 1% or 1000 of them being really bad bugs. Your body has the resources and can repel that attack of those 1000 nasty bugs along with the less potent ones.

Now, imagine you attack the viruses with Listerine and kill everyone of them except the really nasty ones. The re-population of viruses immediately continues—with only really bad ones. Soon you have one million really bad bugs. Your body cannot withstand the attack of one million really bad bugs and Listerine won't kill them. It is not a "super virus". You did not evolve a "super virus". You used Listerine to commit genocide on the population until they were all that was left. They didn't evolve—they de-evolved to a limited set of what already existed.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS NOT

A local group of Christians who believe that the Bible can be updated by contemporary council decisions.

A church which receives the permission from an earthly headquarters to plant a new congregation.

A church which attempts to duplicate a 19th or 20th century pattern for a church.

A church which believes you can pick and choose what part of the Bible you want to believe and follow only those parts.

A church which believes that we should judge that we are all in a community of believers as long as we say we believe in Jesus, irrespective of what we do and preach. A church which should assure all others that they are saved.

A group who makes decisions based on popularity rather than scriptural basis.

A group which simply skips over Acts 2:38.

A group which finds more convenient ways to simulate baptism.

A group which votes on what it suits them to believe and preach or a group which believes that they are still getting direct revelations from God.

A group who believes we are here to entertain ourselves.

WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS

The church of Christ is a local group of Christians which try to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the first century pattern and teaching of the New Testament era at each location.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the scriptural organization of the church at each location.

The church of Christ has members who believe they are following the scriptural teachings as best they can.

Church of Christ members believe that we should not judge others' eternal reward, but that it is not reasonable to give comfort to others who follow their own preferences rather than teachings of the Bible.

A non-instrumental body as instruments were available in the first century and not used, and not used for several centuries.

A group who teaches Acts 2:38.

A group which teaches baptism by immersion for the remission of sins as that is what is taught in the Bible.

A group which believes all revelation was given in the first century.

A group which believes we are responsible to take the Gospel to the world.

MONEY PAGE

GUARANTEED CHURCH GROWTH

If your congregation does the following, BCE Publications guarantees that it will grow.

Poll your congregation three times at 6 months intervals with the following results:

- 50% of the members know who their elder is
- 50% of the members will say that a minister is their friend
- 50% of the members will say that they are uplifted by the song services
- 50% of the men will say that their input is considered before physical decisions are made
- 50% of the members will say they are an important part of the work
- 50% of the members will say they are aware of the goals of the congregation
- 50% of the members will say that they know what their part is in achieving your goals

GUARANTEE: For the first congregation which does this and does not grow by at least 10%, we will send \$1000 to the church related children's home of your choice in your name.

I have never met a person who said that if they did this their church would not grow. If your congregation is not growing, what have you got to lose? (Offer made since 2001)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION?

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the first law of thermodynamics and have come into existence without God.

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the second law of thermodynamics and have existed forever without God. (Offer first posted 8/08)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

This publication continues (since 1991) to make a standing offer of \$100 to the first person who can give any reason (1 or more) as to why atheistic evolution is a better explanation for the universe and/or life than creation by God, The Father of Adam, Abraham, and Jesus; as revealed in the Bible.

We will also give you \$100 if we cannot give you 12 reasons why atheistic evolution is impossible as an explanation for our existence.

We will discuss this any place, any time, and in any forum. (Offer posed since June, 1991)

RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT:

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can refute the logic that a person can in fact run at the speed of light as presented in the September 2009 issue of this newsletter.

THE MONEY PAGE:

This page may seem odd, even irreverent to offer money for something like this. It is 3 simple statements on church growth, that we cannot be here without God, and evolution is not possible. The steadfastness of putting money on the line for this is to try to be of assistance against those who would discourage church growth, believe in atheism, or promote atheistic evolution.

The page is intended to be a continuing reinforcement.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

- 1/5/11 Start of a Church of Christ area wide chorus at Memorial, 500 Echo Lane, room 116, contact Wade Price, wprice@eprod.com
- 2/11/11 Discovery Youth Foundation Golf-A-Thon (Fifth Ward) at Northgate Country Club, contact at www.discoveryyouthfoundation.org/
- 3/11-12/11 Area Wide Men's Retreat at Trinity Pines Conference Center, bbaugh@thearray.org
- 5/17/11 Foster Home For Children Golf Tournament at Blackhorse, contact bbaugh@thearray.org
- December Annual Sacred Harp Singing

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array Newsletter

This newsletter will be sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to info@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to info@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate:

1. Your forwarding the church member e-mail addresses which you have.
2. Sending the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have.
3. Give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

This information will not be sold or used for any purpose not mentioned herein.

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